ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT AS A RIPARIAN AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR 1971.

Compiled in accordance with Form Port 20 issued by the Ministry of Health, dated October, 1952.

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SECTION I - Staff

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any Other Appointments Held
Dr. D.A. Smyth	Medical Officer of Health	3rd January 1966	M.B., B.S., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.	Also Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer for the South East Area of Essex County Council.
Dr. E.E. Hodgson	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	28th April 1968	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.S.H.	Also Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh and Departmental Medical Officer for the South East Area of Essex County Council.
H. Jepson	Chief Public Health Inspector	January 1947	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.	----
J.R. Bullock	Public Health Inspector	October 1961	M.A.P.H.I.	----

Office Address and Telephone Number of Medical Officer of Health:- Public Health Department, 134 High Street, Rayleigh, Essex. Telephone: Rayleigh 6101.

Telegraphic Address:- ROCHELTH RAYLEIGH.

SECTION II - Amount of Shipping Entering District during the year.

71 ships involving 125 trips docked at Baltic Wharf, Wallasea Island, from foreign ports during 1971. The recorded dead weight tonnage was 51,748. According to the Shipping Agents at least another 15 ships arrived from foreign ports which had first docked at another British port so that the submission of a Maritime Declaration of Health at Baltic Wharf was unnecessary.

Approximately two-thirds of the ships came from Dutch, German and Danish ports. 52 ships were less than 500 tons dead weight and 19 were over that figure. 5 ships were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy and two ships were inspected by the Public Health Inspector. No ships were reported as having any infectious disease on board during the voyage.

SECTION III - Character of Shipping and Trade during the year

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic:-	Maritime Declarations of Health submitted from 27 ships revealed that 55 passengers were carried during the year.
Cargo Traffic:-	According to the shipping agents, imports arriving at Baltic Wharf totalled 88,625 tons, all of which was timber and timber products with the exception of 49 tons of steel. However, Maritime Declarations of Health revealed 12 ships were carrying general cargo and one Liberian ship was carrying ground nuts.
Principal Ports from which ships arrive:-	Galatz, Lisbon, Kotka, Kasko, Lulea, Leningrad, Blankaholm, Rauma Skutskaer, Szezcin, Leixoes.

SECTION IV - Inland Barge Traffic

None

SECTION V - Water Supply

(1) Source of supply for (a) district:-	Essex Water Company.
(b) shipping:-	Mains water via a 2,000 gallon totally enclosed storage tank piped to the jetty. 50% of ships arriving take on water. Water in storage tank is kept 'moving' by being linked with a small 100 gallon tank serving the offices of the Shipping Agents.
(2) Reports of tests for contamination:-	Daily tests of water going into supply taken by resident Chemist of the Essex Water Company - all satisfactory.
(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes:-	Two samples of tap water were taken from ships in port on 14th September, one of which was found to be unsatisfactory and was reported to the Shipping Agents with a request that the Master be informed when next in port.
(4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats and powers of control by the Authority:-	None.

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1966

(1) List of Infected Areas:-	Lists of Infected Areas received, as issued by the World Health Organisation, are scrutinized in the office of the Medical Officer of Health and instructions issued as necessary to the Shipping Agents to hold any crew until medical clearance can be given. One ship involving two arrivals came from Brazil and another ship involving four arrivals came from Lisbon.

(2) Radio messages:-	
(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district:-	Nil
(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon:-	Arrangements in force for Ships' Masters to send radio message to North Foreland or Humber Radio Stations with answers to questions 1-6 on page 1 of the Maritime Declaration of Health and such messages to be telephoned by North Foreland or Humber to Rayleigh 6101, Southend-on-Sea 77913 or Southend-on-Sea 557252.
(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio:-	Instructions to Shipping Agents to notify by telephone the arrival of any ship which has not previously sent a radio message via North Foreland.
(4) Mooring Stations:-	By arrangements with the Port of London Health Authority.
(5) Arrangements for:-	
(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases:-	Westcliff Ward, Rochford General Hospital.
(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts:-	By Public Health Staff as and when required.
(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles:-	Local arrangements as and when required with use of power vaporizing spray. Facilities for steam disinfection if required.

SECTION VII - Smallpox

(1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district:-	Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.
(2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance giving the name of Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews:-	By special ambulance provided by the Greater London Council through the Essex County Ambulance Service. Essex County crews vaccinated every three years.
(3) Smallpox Consultants available:-	Dr. W.T.G. Boul, Dr. G.D.W. MacKendrick and Dr. J.D. Kershaw.
(4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox:-	Official smallpox outfits despatched by express post to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, NW9.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease

Venereal Disease Clinics at Out-Patient Department of Southend General Hospital. Times of Clinics issued to Shipping Agents.

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SECTION IX - Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships

None

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in Ships

None

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague

None

SECTION XIII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports

This is not a Deratting Authority.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances

None

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish Regulations) 1934 & 1948

The River Crouch, on which Baltic Wharf is sited (on south bank towards the mouth), forms the northern boundary of the Rochford Rural District. This same river forms the southern boundary of the Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District and Maldon Rural District. In 1936 the Burnham-on-Crouch U.D.C. made an Order making it an offence to sell oysters for human consumption taken from their side of the river between Lyon Creek and Coleward Flat, unless they had first been subjected to processing or re-laid in clean water. This Order remains in force. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, Fisheries Laboratory at Burnham-on-Crouch, have confirmed to me that as far as is know, no cultivation of oysters takes place in the Crouch in an area south of that specified in the Order, or indeed along the remaining length of the south shore abutting the Rochford R.D.

However, dredging for shellfish may be carried on virtually along the whole length of the River Crouch, the area extending 1½ miles eastward from Hullbridge and any catches invariably being re-laid before sale. Shellfish beds are also in use adjacent to the north bank of the Crouch, west of Lyon Creek including Bridgemarsh Creek and the south shore of Bridgemarsh Island and between the west end of Bridgemarsh Island and Fambridge. Notices warning the public that untreated shellfish found on the south bank of the river are unfit for human consumption are currently displayed at selected points by the Rochford Rural District Council.

Diluted untreated sewage from the main sewer at Hullbridge is discharged into the River Crouch from the Pumping Station there, during times of prolonged heavy rain. Treated effluent is also discharged as a routine procedure into the Crouch west of Hullbridge from the Rayleigh Western Sewerage Works which abut the south bank of the river. At present this effluent is below standard but enlarged and improved works are now in the planning stage and tenders have been invited (1972).

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens

On 11th December the German ship "Heinrich Schmidt" (928 tons) which was en route from

Porto Alegre, Brazil to Baltic Wharf, radioed in reporting that there were five West African stowaways on board. The Medical Officer of Health boarded the ship as soon as it docked and certified that the stowaways were medically fit, being left the matter for the Immigration Authorities to handle.

On the same day, the Medical Officer of Health medically examined a member of the crew of the "Leningrad Partisan" (U.S.S.R.) and arranged for his admission to Rochford General Hospital.

SECTION XVI - Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from Infectious Disease

Nil.

17th May, 1972.

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER BALTIC WHARF
ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.